

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:**

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. **(currently amended):** ~~Use~~ A method for the treatment or prophylaxis of osteoarthritis, comprising administering to a mammal in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a sulphated polysaccharide in acid form or as a physiologically acceptable salt thereof, selected from the group consisting of inulin sulphate, gellan sulphate, pullulan sulphate, curdlan sulphate, alginic acid sulphate, laminarin sulphate, and pectin sulphate, for the preparation of a medicament for the treatment or prophylaxis of arthrosis in a mammal.

2. **(currently amended):** ~~Use~~ The method according to claim 1, wherein the sulphated polysaccharide ~~in acid form or as a physiologically acceptable salt thereof~~ is selected from the group consisting of inulin sulphate, gellan sulphate, pullulan sulphate, and curdlan sulphate, and wherein the sulphated polysaccharide is in acid form or as a physiologically acceptable salt thereof.

3. **(currently amended):** ~~Use~~ The method according to claim 2, wherein the sulphated polysaccharide is inulin sulphate.

4. **(currently amended):** ~~Use~~ The method according to claim 2, wherein the sulphated polysaccharide is gellan sulphate.

5. **(currently amended):** ~~Use~~The method according to claim 1, wherein the sulphated polysaccharide is totally or partially salified with an alkaline or alkaline earth metal.

6. **(currently amended):** ~~Use~~The method according to claim 5, wherein the alkaline metal is sodium.

7. **(currently amended):** ~~Use~~The method according to claim 6, wherein the sulphated polysaccharide in the form of a sodium salt is inulin sulphate sodium salt.

8. **(currently amended):** ~~Use~~The method according to claim 6, wherein the sulphated polysaccharide in the form of a sodium salt is gellan sulphate sodium salt.

9. **(currently amended):** ~~Use~~The method according to claim 7, wherein the inulin sulphate sodium salt exhibits a degree of sulphation between 25% and 62%, on anhydrous base.

10. **(currently amended):** ~~Use~~The method according to claim 9, wherein the degree of sulphation is between 55% and 62%, on anhydrous base.

11. **(currently amended):** ~~Use~~The method according to claim 1, wherein the sulphated polysaccharide is partially hydrolysed.

**12. (currently amended):** ~~Use~~The method according to claim 1, wherein the sulphated polysaccharide is a polysulphated polysaccharide.

**13. (currently amended):** ~~Use~~The method according to claim 12, wherein the polysulphated polysaccharide is selected from the group consisting of inulin polysulphate, gellan polysulphate, pullulan polysulphate, curdlan polysulphate, alginic acid polysulphate, laminarin polysulphate, and pectin polysulphate.

**14. (currently amended):** ~~Use~~The method according to claim 13, wherein the polysulphated polysaccharide is inulin polysulphate.

**15. (currently amended):** ~~Use~~The method according to claim 14, wherein the inulin polysulphate is inulin polysulphate sodium salt.

**16. (currently amended):** ~~Use~~The method according to claim 13, wherein the polysulphated polysaccharide is gellan polysulphate.

**17. (currently amended):** ~~Use~~The method according to claim 16, wherein the gellan polysulphate is gellan polysulphate sodium salt.

**18. (canceled).**

19. (currently amended): ~~Use A method for the treatment or prophylaxis of~~  
~~osteoarthritis, comprising administering to a mammal in need thereof a therapeutically effective~~  
~~amount~~ of a sulphated oligosaccharide in acid form or as a physiologically acceptable salt  
thereof, derived from a polysaccharide selected from the group consisting of inulin, gellan,  
pullulan, curdlan, alginic acid, laminarin, and pectin, ~~for the preparation of a medicament for the~~  
~~treatment or prophylaxis of arthrosis in a mammal.~~

20. (currently amended): ~~Use A method~~ according to claim 19, wherein the  
sulphated oligosaccharide is derived from inulin.

21. (currently amended): ~~Use The method~~ according to claim 19, wherein the  
sulphated oligosaccharide is derived from gellan.

22. (currently amended): ~~Use The method~~ according to claim 19, wherein the  
sulphated oligosaccharide is a polysulphated oligosaccharide.

23. (currently amended): ~~Use A method for the treatment or prophylaxis of~~  
~~osteoarthritis, comprising administering to a mammal in need thereof a therapeutically effective~~  
~~amount~~ of a sulphated oligosaccharide in acid form or as a physiologically acceptable salt  
thereof, produced by chemical synthesis, whose structure corresponds to a portion of the  
structure of a sulphated polysaccharide selected from the group ~~consist~~ consisting of inulin  
sulphate, gellan sulphate, pullulan sulphate, curdlan sulphate, alginic acid sulphate, laminarin

sulphate, and pectin sulphate, ~~for the preparation of a medicament for the treatment or prophylaxis of arthrosis in a mammal.~~

**24. (currently amended):** ~~Use according to~~ A method for the treatment or prophylaxis of osteoarthritis, comprising administering orally the compound of claim 1, wherein the medicament is adapted for oral administration.

**25. (currently amended):** ~~Use according to~~ A method for the treatment or prophylaxis of osteoarthritis, comprising administering intra-articularly the compound of claim 1, wherein the medicament is adapted for intra-articular administration.